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"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."

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THE SPIRIT OF THE HOMŒOPATHIC DOCTRINE.

BY SAMUEL HAHNEMANN.

Translated by Geddes M. Scott, M. D., of Glasgow, Scotland.

"From seeing evil still educing good."

Continued.

Diseases being nothing else than dynamic alterations in the state of our organism and of our vital character, it is not possible for man

to annihilate them otherwise than by means of properties and powers equally capable of dynamically modifying the state of the human organism. In other terms, medicines cure diseases in a specific (virtuelle) and dynamic manner.

Those active substances and those powers which are at our disposal, (viz. medicines,) effect the cure of diseases by the same dynamic property of modifying the actual state and vital character of our organism in its manner of feeling and acting, as that in virtue of which they also affect man in health, modify him dynamically, and excite in him certain morbid symptoms, the knowledge of which, as we shall see hereafter, affords us the most definite ideas concerning the diseased states for which each of these medicines is the appropriate remedy. *There is, then, nothing in the world which can accomplish a cure, no substance or power which can be fitted to produce in the human organism a change of such a nature as to expel disease from it, if it be not an agent capable of deranging the state of man in general, (dynamically,) and in consequence also of morbidly mortifying the state of the healthy subject.*

But, on the other hand, there is no agent or power in nature capable of morbidly affecting man in health, which does not at the same time possess the power of curing certain morbid states. Now, since the power of curing a disease, and that of producing a morbid affection in persons in health, are inseparable from each other, in all medicines, and that these two powers proceed manifestly from one and the same source, that is to say, from the property which medicines have of modifying dynamically the state of man, and that consequently, also, these cannot act on the deceased after any other inherent natural law than that which presides over their action on individuals in health, it follows from this that the power

of the medicine which cures the disease in the sick is the same which causes it to excite morbid symptoms in the healthy.

We shall find, then, also, that the curative power of medicines, or that which can be effected by each of them in diseases, is never more clearly expressed, and can never be conveyed to the mind in a more simple and adequate manner than by the phenomena and morbid symptoms (kinds of artificial maladies) to which these substances give rise in man in health; for as soon as we have under our eyes the table of the particular morbid symptoms produced in a healthy man by different medicinal substances, it only remains for us to have recourse to pure experiments, which alone are capable of determining what are the medicinal symptoms (or the symptoms produced by the medicine in the healthy subject) which always arrest and cure certain morbid symptoms (i. e. diseases) in a rapid and durable manner, in order to know beforehand which of those medicines, the particular symptoms of which have been studied, is the surest method of cure in each given case of disease.

If we then consult experience, that we may learn from it what are the artificial morbid elements (or those observed in consequence of the action of medicines) on the help of which we may count in certain natural morbid states; if we ask of it whether the method of restoring health, in the most certain and durable manner, consists in employing medicines which are fitted to produce in a healthy man a diseased state *different* from that which we could cure, or those which produce in a healthy man a state *opposed* to that which exists in the case we propose to cure; or, lastly, those which excite in healthy subjects a state *analogous* to the natural malady which we have before our eyes, (for these three are the only possible methods of modifying the organism,) the reply to such a question is not doubtful.

Now it is self-evident that medicines which act in a *different* manner, (allopathically,)—which have a tendency to produce in a healthy man symptoms not identical with those of the malady of which we attempt the cure,—cannot, by the nature of things, be suitable and salutary, and that they must act in a manner in some sort indirect, otherwise each malady might be cured promptly, certainly and durably, by the first medicine that should come to hand. But as each medicine possesses a mode of action different from that of others,

as each malady determines, by the eternal laws of nature, a derangement of the organism different from that which is occasioned by others, this proposition implies a contradiction, which is sufficient to demonstrate the impossibility of a good result in a like case; it being impossible to offer any change whatever except by an appropriate cause, and not *per quamlibet causam*. Thus, experience proves every day that the ordinary practice, with its incongruous mixtures of unknown medicines, produces undoubtedly all sorts of effects, of which a cure is the least frequent.

The second manner of healing diseases by medicines consists in employing substances which act in a *contrary* manner (enantiopathically or antipathically) to the existing morbid state. It is not difficult, in this case either, to conceive that such a method can never effect a durable cure, because the disease will not fail speedily to re-appear, and in a more powerful degree than formerly. For observe what happens in such a case. According to an admirable arrangement of the creation, living organized beings do not by any means obey the laws of inorganic nature: they do not receive as the latter the impression of external things in a manner purely passive: they do not yield as inorganic nature to the influences from without, but tend to establish the contrary of the action to which they are subjected.

The living human body, indeed, experiences in the first moments, some change in consequence of the action which physical forces exercise upon it; but this change is not durable as it is in inorganic beings, and as it must be in order that a medicinal power acting inversely to the malady should produce a permanent effect, a durable cure. Very far from that, the living human organism tends to determine, by opposition, the precise contrary of the affection which it has received from without.

Thus the hand which has been held for some time plunged in ice-cold water no longer remains cold after having been withdrawn from it, nor confines itself to resuming the temperature of the surrounding air, as would happen to a ball of stone: it no longer preserves the heat of the rest of the body; but the colder the water is, the longer does it act upon the sound skin of the hand, and the more is this inflamed, and the warmer does it become after having been withdrawn.

It cannot, then, fail to happen that a medicine acting in a manner opposed to the symp

toms of the malady should ameliorate for only a very short time, the existing morbid symptom, and should speedily be obliged to yield to the power of re action which predominates in living bodies, and which excites the contrary state, that is to say, one opposed to the fallacious amelioration produced by the palliative, and similar to the original malady. But this state is a real addition made to the first disease, which has not been cured; it is, consequently this disease in a higher degree. The evil certainly continues thus always to increase after the palliative, or the medicine acting in a contrary and enantiopathic manner, has exhausted its action.

To be continued.

SELECTION OF REMEDIES.

It is a rule from which no true physician should depart, *that each case of sickness must indicate the remedy which is adapted to its own cure.* A strict adherence to the rule will require a minute investigation of the phenomena of every case of sickness which the physician may be called upon to treat. He cannot discharge his duty if he merely takes into consideration a few, or even all, of the more prominent sufferings of the sick; it is essential that he note all he can of his own observation; then allow the patient, in his own way and without interruption, to relate his sufferings; let him take his own time to do it;—never hurry him, for it often happens that his moral condition will appear by the manner he exhibits in describing his diseased state to his physician; which, in a majority of cases, is of more importance to know than any thing else: and finally; make strict inquiries of his friends or those who are in waiting upon him, and patiently listen to all they have to say. By this method, and a proper arrangement upon paper of what the physician sees and hears, a true image of the disease will be obtained. After which, a patient study of the *materia medica* will furnish a similar image or disease from among the pathogenetic effects of some drug; and this is the Homœopathic remedy. And when it is thus selected, and administered in a small attenuated dose, the effect in many if not in most cases, will be instantaneous, in acute ones especially; and even in incurable cases, there will be a striking modification of the sufferings, so much so, that the patient himself and his friends may entertain hopes of recovery, and doubt the prognosis of the physician.

What we here state we do know, for it has been a high gratification to us, to have witnessed the effects of drugs, as above related, in hundreds of cases. And every true physician of our school can testify to the same results in his own experience.

This brief statement is enough to show what precision is necessary to obtain satisfactory results in the practice of Homœopathy. There must be a close observance of the rule at the head of this article, or, in our efforts to find a reason for a practice which has no solid foundation to satisfy the sick and their friends, and also to allay the unpleasant movements of conscience, we should be lost in the fogs of speculation and theory.

There are some popular errors on the subject of this article, which it is desirable to correct; and we willingly contribute our aid in accomplishing this object.

The following or similar questions, which have been frequently asked, show a want of proper information of the Homœopathic practice. What is the remedy for scarlet fever? What for measles? Which is the remedy for inflammation? Which is to be used in constipation? &c., &c. No one well instructed in the doctrines of our school would ask such questions, unless in reference to an epidemic, in which a single drug had been found to be more useful; as for instance, in 1843, the influenza prevailed as an epidemic in this city, and most of the cases yielded promptly to *Stibium*, although there were exceptions. During the year 1845 and down to this period, most of the cases of influenza we have treated, yielded to *Nux vomica*, 30th potency; which facts illustrate the above rule.

It is now agreed on all sides, that it is wrong to prescribe for a disease by its name, and especially is this so in our school. Unfortunate results have followed attempts to cure diseases by having an eye mainly to the names by which they have been called, either with or without reason. This is the real practice of the old school, however much it may be denied; for the evidence to sustain this assertion may be found in any medical journal of that school; also in almost every allopathic work on the practice of medicine, and in the every day practice of allopathic physicians generally.

The particular errors into which some have fallen are, a belief that Homœopathy has a remedy for each disease by its name, as the above questions show. For example *Bella-*

donna is Homœopathically indicated in many cases of scarlet fever, therefore some persons infer that it is specific for all cases of that disease, and that it is the only remedy; which is far, very far, from the truth. We have known death to occur of this disease, after the use of this drug, and Homœopathy was blamed for the mischief; when the fact was, she had had nothing to do with it. Very lately, however, our allopathic brethren have found out, that our school finds *carbonate of ammonia* occasionally indicated in scarlet fever, consequently this drug has become with them almost as fashionable in this disease, as is *hydriodate of potash* in every thing.

Again: It is said, that *aconite* is the remedy for inflammations, and yet every true physician knows that it is not appropriate to every case of this affection, for it often fails to cure conditions usually expressed by that term.

Pulsatilla, *Nux vomica*, *Arsenicum*, *Cantharides*, *Chamomilla*, *Rhus toxicodendron*, *Bryonia*, *Phosphorous*, *Belladonna*, and others, cure inflammatory conditions as often as *aconitum*; and the indications for each, are not at all doubtful to those who may be familiar with the *materia medica*, and have skill in diagnosis.

Again: It is said that *Pulsatilla* is the Homœopathic remedy of *measles*, and yet, *Aconite*, *Chamomilla*, *Sulphur*, and *Bryonia*, are as often indicated as it, and probably most of these and others may be required in the same case.

And so, also, of whooping cough and other diseases do the same errors exist.

If our art is to improve and accomplish all of which it is capable, physicians must study each case of disease by itself; every thing should be noted down and the *totality* of the symptoms be made to select the remedy.

If this is neglected, then we become only routinists—mere copyists. The genuine Homœopathic practice places the responsibility of every case of disease fully upon the physician. On his knowledge—on his judgment—and on his care, will success depend, under the blessing of God.

A REPORT,

"Containing a synoptical view of the principles of Homœopathy contrasted with those of medicine."

A pamphlet of 71 pages, with the above title, has been published lately at Syracuse, N. Y.

It purports to be the report of a committee

appointed by the Onondaga County Medical Society, to investigate the subject of Homœopathy. But, from some unexplained cause the chairman wrote the report, and published it without consulting the other members of the committee or the society. He did so, he says, "in anticipation of the society's vote to print." We take leave to congratulate his associates, Drs. W. Taylor, E. T. Richardson, W. Laughlin, W. A. Grover, and H. McKinley, on their escape from any responsibility in such a production.

We have become quite tired of works of this sort; nothing is accomplished by them, except the gratification of the vanity of their authors, which is very well developed from the first to the last page of this so-called report.

He commences with a *fling* at Hahnemann as a man and a scholar, and this, on the authority of a Dr. Leo Wolf, who, in 1824, caused to be published a silly book, which was quite characteristic of the author. We remember the Doctor and his book very well. It came from the press at the time we were engaged in investigating Homœopathy, in the only legitimate mode,—by trying it. The reading of that book urged us to a greater industry and care in the pursuit of a knowledge of that system of the healing art.

Dr. Leo Wolf's book never had any weight, not even with the enemies of our school. It was strongly suspected at the time, that the author had some personal motive in writing what he did of Hahnemann; so utterly destitute of any foundation in fact. But the author of the Syracuse report reminds us of a sentiment we read a long time ago, that when a lie gets into the world, how hard it is to get it out of the world. For years, we have not heard Dr. L's book mentioned by friend or foe until now;—it has slept quietly somewhere—perhaps the publisher of it could tell.

This report under consideration is wordy—very wordy, and is evidently the production of a light and an eccentric mind. There is nothing profound in it; and it betrays most clearly a want of knowledge on the part of the author of the subject of which he professes to treat. We do desire that whoever hereafter writes against Homœopathy, will first inform himself on the subject; and, to help all such persons, we hereby tell them, that Homœopathy stands on two legs, as we believe; and if it can be proved that it does not thus stand, then it is nothing.

We will at this time take occasion to say,

that words, and only words, can never disprove Homœopathy. Any thing, other than the very experiments that Hahnemann himself practiced cannot prove it true or false. We say to all who feel an interest in the subject, do as he did; be careful, and publish the results. There cannot be, in the very nature of it, any other mode of fairly and truly investigating Homœopathy. Let her enemies say what they please, write what they please, publish what they please. Let them ridicule, misrepresent Hahnemann, and call his disciples low-bred, uneducated, and a half-starved set of fellows, who only embraced Homœopathy to get a morsel of bread; it will amount to nothing. We shall always meet them by asking: *Have you tried it?* and if the answer is No, there is an end of the discussion.

Some say, it is too absurd to try. Then cease to write about it.

Will reasoning alone convince any one that drugs will produce specific effects upon the human system? Certainly not. But experiment will.

Homœopathy is a fact, to reason against which betrays absurdity of the most positive character.

It is strange that the developements of new facts in science in such constant and quick succession, which startle mankind with their originality and apparent improbabilities, and excite from their newness and seeming opposition to common sense, incredulity or downright denial; but which, as constantly stand the test of rigid experiment; should not teach them to suspend judgment until they have subjected to the proper test any new principle in science; especially if the new principle be defended by numerous, intelligent, scientific, and candid men.

If it be a fact in science, it must be capable of demonstration.

To judge of such facts from any seeming improbabilities, is evidence of a want of true philosophy, if not liberality and candor, which always distinguishes honest seekers after truth.

To reason against a fact is downright absurdity and unmitigated folly.

Homœopathy pretends to be based upon facts; these facts are attested by numerous, capable, and candid advocates. The facts are susceptible of demonstration; if true, they equal, at least, in importance any that have ever been discovered. If not true, the whole system that has been established upon them is

without foundation. These facts have been constantly and clearly stated. They are familiar to the medical profession, and to so much of the public as take an interest in them. They have never been tested and disproved by those who oppose them. By thousands who have done so they are admitted.

To what can the opposition of the former be attributed? Not to the want of evidence, surely; for that they refuse to examine. Not to the amount of it; for it is overwhelming. Not to the respectability of it; for it comes from their own compeers and associates. Not to its want of age; for it is as old as creation itself. Not to its recent discovery; a man might as well go to battle with a sling because fire-arms were not used 2000 years ago—ascend the North River in a sloop because steamboats were unknown centuries ago—write a book on parchment—start a horse express in opposition to the magnetic telegraph. Hippocrates is a time-honored worthy.

PROVING OF MEDICINES ON THE HEALTHY BODY,

BY DR. DRYSDALE, Liverpool.

Concluded.

Form and preparation.—The medicines should be used in the form that is most easily reproduced, as it is essential that a preparation precisely similar to that proved should be always employed. Such specimens should therefore only be chosen as are well characterized, and of known genuineness and purity. The simplest form of administration should be adopted: of fresh plants the expressed juice mixed with a little spirit of wine may be given; of dried plants a tincture, powder or infusion fresh prepared. Salts should be dissolved and gum resins mixed in a large quantity of water just before taking them. Insoluble substances triturated for a length of time with 5, 10, 50, or 100 parts of milk sugar.

Dose.—As a general rule, we must begin with a small dose, and increase it gradually till distinct symptoms make their appearance. To obtain a complete knowledge of the action of a medicine, it is necessary to give it both in large and in small doses, but the latter are by far the best adapted to develop its specific effects, for very many medicines are evacuates in large doses, and produce their own expulsion, thus preventing their specific action from being fully developed; for example, if mercu-

ry were always given in purgative doses, we should learn very little of its other infinitely more characteristic effects. Large doses of some substances produce also a certain amount of chemical action which either overpowers, or, at least prevents us from observing distinctly their proper specific dynamic action. The most useful doses are, therefore, those which are just sufficient to produce distinct symptoms; such doses are also the best, as they produce chiefly primary symptoms; while large doses cause many secondary symptoms, and act so rapidly that the observer is confused. The dose may be repeated once or many times daily, and for many days in succession; but in that case it is often difficult to separate the primary for the secondary symptoms, and also the course of the symptoms cannot be so accurately observed. It is therefore often useful to give a single pretty large dose, and watch its effects. This plan is chiefly useful with some vegetable medicines whose sphere of action is small, and of which the first dose sometimes exhausts, for a time the susceptibility of the system to the action of the substance.

Diet.—The diet and regimen of the prover must be regulated with great care. Moderation in every thing, and abstinence from every thing tending to exercise any medicinal or distracting influence, are necessary. All fermented and spirituous liquors, coffee and spices of every description, all green vegetables and roots, with the exception of green peas, kidney beans, carrots, turnips, cauliflower, and potatoes, and even any of these, should it disagree in the most trifling manner with the stomach, must be avoided during the proving. Also all over-exertion of the mind or body, deep study, strong mental emotion, and violent passion unfit the individual for these experiments.

Directions for Individual Provers.—Each one must write down his name and age, and description of his person, indicating the temperament, complexion, color of the hair and eyes, stature and habit of body, &c. Anonymous observations should be rejected, except in the case of females and non-intelligent provers; but, in these instances, the person under whose direction the experiments are conducted is to be held responsible for their accuracy. These precautions may seem unnecessary, but unfortunately they are not so; for, incredible as it may appear, individuals have been actually found base enough to sport with the lives of

their fellow-creatures, by the publication of false provings for the sake of gain.*

Observe himself before beginning.—The prover should choose a period when he is in the best health, and regulate his diet according to the above directions, at the same time avoiding all causes of unusual mental and bodily excitement. As every one, however, is liable even in the best state of health, to slight variations in the sensations and functions, each prover should observe himself accurately for a week or ten days before commencing his experiments, and should write down all his sensations just as if he were taking the medicine. Having thus discovered what symptoms he is liable to naturally, he must afterwards carefully avoid setting them down among the effects of the medicine. Most persons have also some weak point in their constitution, which is liable to suffer from any cause that in any way deranges the general health, whether that cause act specifically or not on the organ in question. The prover must, of course, avoid enumerating these symptoms also among the effects of the medicine. Should there occur, in the course of the proving, such a deviation from the diet or regimen, as would throw doubt on the results, the subsequent symptoms must be included within brackets; and if any interruption of greater moment should arise, the proving is to be altogether suspended for a time.

Having duly attended to all these preliminary precautions, the prover should begin to take the medicine whose action he wishes to investigate, in any of the doses already mentioned, and when symptoms begin to show themselves distinctly, he should describe them as accurately as possible, observing the following cautions:—

Primary and Secondary Symptoms.—One of the most important things to be kept in view is the distinction of symptoms into primary and secondary; for it is familiar to all that any unusual action or excitement of any part is invariably followed by a corresponding degree of

* A miscreant called Fickel published under feigned names, (Heyne and Hofbauer,) two books of fictitious provings. From their internal evidence alone, Drs. Trinks and Helbig of Dresden showed that these were false, and that both publications were the work of the same individual. They were, at length, traced to Fickel, who was at the same time, detected in other knavish practices, and was forced to fly from Leipzig to avoid imprisonment.

quite the opposite state, and therefore it is the primary symptoms alone that are valuable as showing the specific action of the substance; the secondary being merely the result of the previously excited action of the organism. For example, if a medicine, by its immediate and direct operation, excite purging, this is necessarily followed by a state of constipation for a longer or a shorter period, as a mere consequence of the exhaustion which follows the primarily excited action, and the constipation is therefore not, in any way, a characteristic effect of the substance which caused the purging.

The secondary action should, therefore, either not be written down at all, or if written, (which it sometimes may be, as it may contain something expressive of the precise character of the primary symptom,) it should only be placed after the primary, and *never as an independent symptom*. In the proving of Chamomilla, for instance, constipation is mentioned several times, but Hahnemann* expressly states, that, on all these occasions, it is merely the secondary effect of previous diarrhœa, and, accordingly, it is never found useful in constipation, but is specific in several forms of diarrhœa. This is a point of the greatest importance, for if not attended to, we cannot distinguish between the Homœopathic and antipathic action of the medicine, and are, therefore, in danger of falling back into the old routine of practice. It is a point, also, which only the prover himself can rightly distinguish; for we find the exhibition of the medicine followed by two opposite classes of symptoms, the one being the true specific action of the medicine, while the other is of no value at all. If these are then all simply written down, a confusion arises which no one afterwards can unravel, and the proving is consequently rendered worse than useless.

Alternative symptoms.—It is found that some medicines produce, at different times, symptoms which are quite opposite in their character, both of which, however, are truly primary, not being the secondary results of any previous excitement. These can easily be distinguished by the prover, who must carefully avoid confounding them with the real secondary symptoms.

Course of Symptoms.—It is to be remembered that the object of proving is to ascertain, not so

much the mere symptoms which follow the administration of a medicine, as the pathological state on which they depend; and, therefore, it is not sufficient to note down the symptoms in a detached and isolated form, but their course and connection must also be carefully observed and accurately described. Instances will, no doubt, occur to the reader, in which the course of the symptoms furnishes one of the best means of diagnosis between different morbid affections of similar character.

Connection of Symptoms.—Attention to the connection of the symptoms is still more important, as leading more directly to a knowledge of the precise seat and nature of the pathological change. For example, pain in the lumbar region, as an isolated symptom, is of little diagnostic value; if it occur, however, in connection with vomiting, it would lead us to suspect the presence of some affection of the kidney, yet without enabling us to determine the precise nature of the affection; but if to these two symptoms be superadded general fever and ischuria, then the diagnosis of nephritis becomes complete.

Isolated Symptoms.—But the fact must not be lost sight of, that individual symptoms will frequently arise in the course of the provings; and as these symptoms are often of great value, as indicating the therapeutic powers of the substance, they must be carefully registered.

Description of Symptoms.—In describing the symptoms, the greatest minuteness and accuracy must be observed; the character of the sensation should be indicated as accurately as possible, which is often best done by some familiar comparison, then should be stated how the symptom is affected by different circumstances, such as position of the body, motion, or rest, eating or fasting, day or night, in a room or in the open air, state of the weather, &c., and, in short, no circumstance, however trifling, must be omitted, which may in any way tend to indicate the characteristic action of the medicine.

A few special examples may probably be the best way to illustrate the minuteness with which it is necessary to examine and describe the symptoms.

Head.—To put down simply head-ache as a symptom of a medicine, would give little information as to its specific action, as that is one of so general occurrence. The pain must be described as accurately as possible, and this often can be best done by a comparison with some familiar sensation. It must be stated,

* Reine Arzneimittellehre, bd. 3. Art. Chamille. Sympt. 180-183.

for instance, if it is shooting, tearing, throbbing, &c., or creeping, buzzing, vibrating, &c., or if pressure, whether from within or without, or downwards; or if it is like a cord round the head, or a sensation of weight or lightness, fulness or emptiness, heat or cold, &c. Also state accurately the part of the head affected; or, if it varies, state the course and direction of the pains. At the same time state any symptoms that accompany the head-ache: this is of great importance, as the accessory symptoms are often the best means of distinguishing the character of the affection: among these are usually affections of the eyes, nausea, variation of the countenance, shivering, or heat, &c. In short, any sympathetic symptom, however trifling, that may tend to mark the character of the primary affection, should be noted. The state of the mind that attends each variety of head-ache is also to be accurately noted. Also note the circumstances in which the pain is aggravated or ameliorated, such as lying down or walking about, time of day, eating, &c.

As an example, we may take symptom 67 of Hahnemann's proving of *Rhus toxicodendron*. "On awakening from sleep, immediately on opening the eyes he is seized with a violent headache, at first in the forehead behind the eyes, as if the brain were torn, like that after intoxication from brandy, increased by moving the eyes; then in the occiput, like a bruise of the cerebellum."

Or *Nux vomica*, symptom 84. "Head-ache, beginning some hours before dinner, increased after eating; then violent shooting pains in the left temple, with nausea and very acid vomiting, all which symptoms disappeared on lying down in the evening."

Or *Belladonna*, symptom 96. "Pain close above the orbits, with the feeling as if the brain were pressed out, preventing the eyes being opened, and forcing the patient to lie down, with strong contractions of the pupils and feeble voice."

As another example, we may take the urinary organs. Describe the state of the urine according to (a) its physical and chemical characters. Specific gravity, color, consistence, smell, acid or alkaline secretion, whether albuminous, &c.

(b) Any sediment should be described, whether flocculent, crystalline, what color, &c. Also its appearance under the microscope, and chemical analysis, or at least the action of a few of the common re-agents.

(c) Its discharge, whether frequent or seldom, copious or scanty, difficult or painful, &c.

(d) The accompanying symptoms, before the discharge, during and after it. Any pains or diseased symptoms in the urethra, bladder, or other organs connected with the function.

As another illustration we may take cough. Its character should be accurately described, whether deep, tickling, hollow, short, hard, spasmodic, dry, or moist, &c. The expectoration should be minutely described, whether easy or difficult, copious or scanty, mucous, purulent, frothy, bloody, (if pure blood, whether bright or dark,) according to the color, taste, or smell; and it should also be examined by the microscope and a few simple chemical tests. It should also be stated what the cough is more immediately excited by, such as itching, tickling, dryness, oppression, &c., in the larynx, trachea, or chest; also the circumstances that bring on, or aggravate, or ameliorate the cough. And not neglect to mention minutely the sympathetic or accompanying symptoms, which are very often the only means of obtaining a characteristic of the substance; such as, pains (accurately described) in the chest head, or abdomen, dyspnoea, palpitation, nausea, eructation, vomiting, epistaxis, pain in the eyes, ears, &c.

Examples from Hahnemann's *Materia Medica*.—"Dry cough during the night, which goes off on sitting up, but returns on lying down again." *Pulsatilla*, symptoms 617.

"Dry cough, as if coming from the stomach, preceded by a creeping and tickling at the epigastrium." *Bryonia*, symptom 308.

"Tickling cough from irritation at the bifurcation of the bronchiæ, from the first loose, nauseous, sweetish-tasted expectoration, worse in the evening before going to bed; attended with hoarse voice and rawness of the trachea after each cough." *Stannum*, symptom 364.

It is unnecessary to multiply examples, as these may be deemed sufficient: I may therefore say, that the same degree of minuteness is to be extended to the observation of all the organs and functions of the system. The state of the mind and temper are also to be carefully observed and noted.

Conclusion.—In conclusion, it must be observed, that, as the object of proving is to obtain as perfect a knowledge as possible of the artificial diseased states produced by the medicinal substance, all the care, skill, and knowledge, that are required for the diagnosis of natural diseases, are required equally for

investigations of this kind. Perhaps these qualities are even more essential in this case, for we have not in the great majority of instances, the aid which pathological anatomy affords. The first step is to give a perfectly faithful account of all the phenomena, quite unbiassed by any theoretical views or speculations on the part of the observer. The strong tendency to theorize existing in the human mind may render this task difficult, but it is absolutely necessary to lay aside any peculiar notions we may entertain, so that our knowledge may be made useful only in directing our attention to all the circumstances which might indicate the exact nature of the affection, carefully abstaining, however from drawing any deduction; for, by this introduction of hypothetical reasoning, we should at once take away the purely positive character of the observation.

The works of Hippocrates contain a description of nearly all the diseases that are at present known, and some of his descriptions are as characteristic as any to be found in the works of modern authors, just because he was content to be a faithful observer of nature.

His observations are consequently as fresh and correct as if made yesterday; but when he introduces any pathological views, or attempts to theorize, his remarks bear the stamp of the rudeness and ignorance of his times. In like manner, Hahnemann, who may be regarded as occupying the same position with respect to the pathogenetic effects of medicines, that Hippocrates does with regard to diseases, has contented himself with giving pure observations of facts without ever attempting to theorize upon them, using his physiological and pathological knowledge merely as a guide to what it might be useful to note. His provings consequently contain the germ of all that is now known of the specific effects of medicines, and they are as fresh as if made yesterday, being remarkable for containing nothing at all of the theories of the day, most of which, indeed, are since exploded. A purely positive observation is for all time, and possesses the same value after the lapse of centuries as it does at the moment when first made; but any theoretical view, however scientific, or in accordance with the state of knowledge of the day, must of necessity be imperfect, and only of temporary value. The prover should therefore confine himself *entirely* to the observation of facts, and leave it to others to draw deductions; if he does draw deductions

the facts and the reasoning should be kept quite separate and distinct.

LAWS OF HEALTH.—DISEASE.

The susceptibility of many patients to the influence of certain drugs, is well known and talked about, but generally disregarded in ordinary practice.

Where this susceptibility exists, a powerful dose may occasion death from an excessive irritability it occasions in the system. Cases often terminate suddenly, (unexpectedly) fatally, after the administration of large doses of drugs, as emetics, cathartics, &c. This has repeatedly been observed and acknowledged by the profession, and can be naturally and fully accounted for on Homœopathic principles. Drugs often, when administered empirically, have a specific relation to disease; and when it exists, any one can see the danger of too large a dose. It would almost necessarily produce an intense aggravation of the existing condition, and of course increase the danger of overcoming the vital power: or, owing to the peculiar susceptibility in the case, a drug thus given might divert a deranged action from some comparatively indifferent part and fix it upon a vital organ. This susceptibility is more than a hint at the existence of a law of relation between drugs and disease; and when it is found so often to exist, it would seem unavoidable that the physician should look for it more generally—that he should look for it universally.

When physicians notice this susceptibility, and witness the baneful effects of what they call a small dose, greatly enhancing the sufferings of the patient, and adding new difficulties to the existing condition—the specific effect of the drug employed—it should, it would seem, induce them to attenuate the drug, with the expectation, by such means, of securing its curative influence, and avoiding its poisonous effects.

When one cannot bear the smell of a rose; another the least proximity to a house-plant; a third can detect the poison of an unseen but obnoxious object; a fourth cannot look at, handle, or remain in the same room with a certain drug; it should have, one would suppose, aroused the curiosity of the scientific to discover, if possible, the principle, or law of relation of medicinal substances to disturbed conditions of the system, at least to learn the peculiar and characteristic effects of the more poison-

ous drugs, rather than to have "contented themselves with administering blindly, in disease, remedies of whose real nature they were ignorant, whose pure and dynamic effects upon healthy persons they had never studied, and with mixing several unknown substances whose action is so diversified, and then left it to chance to dispose of whatever might accrue to the patient from this treatment. It is in this manner that a madman, who has just forced his way into the workshop of an artist, seizes with open hands upon all the tools within his reach for the purpose of finishing a work which he finds in a state of preparation. Who can doubt but that he will spoil it, by the ridiculous manner in which he goes to work, or destroy it altogether?"

Disturbing agents, productive of disease, affect the system specifically, and in accordance with fixed principles; and they may be (and often are) of an attenuated character—positively inappreciable to the senses, and not subject to any known chemical test: "the secretions of one child, laboring under the whooping-cough, are sufficient to infect a whole city." It is found by direct proving of drugs, as has been found by the accidental use of them, that they act specifically, and in accordance with fixed principles; and that they are capable of producing disturbance of the vital action, in attenuated doses, inappreciable to the senses. If this be true, the law upon which these phenomena depend, or in accordance with which they are exhibited, should always be made the basis and the rule for their use. The use of drugs, then, empirically or experimentally, is unphilosophical, inexcusable, and hazardous to health and life. Aside from the direct effect of drugs in any given case, their *cumulative* influence is not always to be *determined or controlled*, and the palliative effects are often anticipated by the poisonous, or are immediately followed by them.

But, escaping the immediately irritating, the cumulative and poisonous effects of large doses, the patient rarely escapes their more permanent, pre-disposing influence. As with mercury, so with Quinine and the noble catalogue of popular and heroic remedies. The effect of Cinchona (Quinine) upon the system is as pernicious as that of mercury. It pre-disposes the system to innumerable difficulties of an obstinate and uncontrollable character—chills and fever, dropsical affections, neuralgic difficulties, rheumatism, nervous head-aches, diseases of the chest, phthisis pulmonalis, &c.

Pending the existence of any of these difficulties, the specific influence of the bark is constant and unyielding; acute attacks, supervening upon these difficulties, are always heightened and aggravated by it. The peculiar symptoms of this poison are constantly apparent, and its influence is permanent—producing suffering and disturbance, complicating the effects of disease, and confusing, or completely destroying its relation to a natural remedy.

It is frequently remarked by physicians, and it comports with our own observation, that it is rare to find a case of *phthisis*, in which the patient has not been, at some former period, drugged with calomel for bilious, or with Quinine for intermitting fever.

The torments of the poor sufferer, from this terrible disease, are multiplied or rendered intense by the unnatural influence of these horrid poisons.

CASE OF CURE.

Patient, a gentleman; age, 40; of a bilious temperament.

For three weeks had suffered from loss of appetite; great thirst; debility; emaciation; profuse sweatings; profuse and frequent urination; constipation of the bowels; tenderness of the abdomen [hypogastric region]; cramps in legs and feet at night; sore mouth and gums; dry, deep cough; wheezing respiration; dizziness [vertigo] when walking; depression of spirits.

There was a feeling of hunger, which was immediately dissipated on attempting to eat. Thirst day and night; desire to urinate frequent and urgent by day and night; urine reddish brown or green color, of a sickish, disagreeable smell.

The bowels had not been moved in ten or twelve days. The cough and difficulty of breathing aggravated by talking.

On Sunday [5th inst.] gave 2½ pellets *natrum muriaticum*, 400th att.—repeated same on Monday morning. On Monday, the symptoms were mitigated. On Tuesday, the bowels moved; appetite returned; urination lessened; thirst gone; no cough. On Wednesday, no symptoms remaining indicating a remedy.

S.

—A communication from "Ulster" will appear in our next number.

IDIOSYNCRACY.

"A peculiarity of constitution, in which a person affected by certain agents, which, if applied to a hundred other persons, would produce no effect, is called a *Idiosyncrasy*."

A lady, a resident of this city, is so susceptible to the influence of tobacco, that even the smoke from a cigar in the open air, will produce a paroxysm of violent coughing, with a sense of suffocation. This lady was sleeping on the sofa, in the after part of the day, and her son entered and lit his cigar by the fire. He drew upon it but once to insure its lighting, and instantly left the room, as he knew how his mother suffered from its smoke; but he never supposed that so small a quantity that escaped into the apartment could, by any possibility, produce effects. However, in a few moments, she was awakened from a sound sleep with a horrible oppression of her chest—shootings in the chest upon every inspiration, with a dry convulsive cough.

The distressed and alarmed family assembled around the mother to relieve her of the violent effects of so small a cause, and there could be no doubt of the reality. This was not effected in a small, confined room, but in a large, high ceiling, modern drawing-room.

From these, two things are made manifest, the accuracy of the symptoms recorded of tobacco in the *materia medica* of Homœopathy, and the powerful effect of an exceedingly small dose, of a particular substance, addressed to an irritable nerve.

The Homœopathist, therefore, needs not bulk or great quantity to produce the decided action and grand effects that, to the uninitiated, may look like magic, while the work is done by an unvarying and universal law of nature. He wants but a perfect knowledge of his *materia medica*, and of disease; and, like one that knows the secret spring, he has but to lay the weight of his little finger upon the *exact spot*, and the opposing obstacle yields easily, safely, and quietly, that otherwise would require the crow-bar and the sledge hammer, with noise, danger, and confusion in the attempt to produce the like result.

He who applies medicine on the Homœopathic law, deals with a sharp edge tool that cuts deep, and let him see to it that he bears on with a light hand.

A young man with as fair a share of health as is usually allotted to man, and of great promise, was seized with Parotitis [mumps].

The parotid gland was swollen and painful;

the tongue was coated white; the pulse accelerated. The young gentleman, under the advice of an allopathic physician, took ten grs. of calomel—a medium dose for that school. But, mark it! this disease [mumps] had created an idiosyncrasy in this young man to the action of mercury. Mercury, to do good—great good, in this case, must be given in Homœopathic doses; for it is a similar irritant—the true specific.

The action of mercury in the Homœopathic *Materia Medica* is thus described:—"Painful swelling of the parotid gland; tongue coated with a white fur; fever." Here is a like affection—to be cured by atomic doses, not by grains.

Twelve hours after this young man had swallowed this dose, every symptom of his disease was fearfully aggravated. The gland became more swollen, hard, and painful; the tongue more coated; the fever increased; the action became more and more intense until life was exhausted. He died on the fourth day. What killed him? the *mumps* or *mercury*?

If one drop of the tincture of tobacco had been given to the lady above described, what would have been the effect?

Hahnemann, sooner or later, must receive the gratitude of mankind for his unwearied perseverance in discovering the effects of drugs upon the human system; and if you wish to know how sad a thing is the want of this knowledge, it may be seen in the tear of a widowed mother that sorrows for her only son, cut off in youth by a dose, administered with no bad intent, but in ignorance of the specific effects of mercury, and the idiosyncrasy, created by disease, to its action.

HOMŒOPATHY IN SOUTH AMERICA.—We extract the following from a Brazilian paper:—

"The Municipal Chamber of the imperial city of Netherohy having condescended to yield to the Brazilian Homœopathic Institution a room in the palace, where they hold their sessions, in which consultations are afforded to the poor; the directors of the said Institution, thus pledged by this act of pure philanthropy, have the pleasure to announce, that from this time forward, advice and medicine will be gratuitously given in the said room of the Municipal Chamber, every Tuesday and Friday, from four to six, in the afternoon."

HOMŒOPATHY IN VIENNA.—We are glad to learn [says the British Journal of Homœopathy] that the state of Homœopathy at Vienna is highly satisfactory; the new Journal has been well received, and has excited much interest among the profession. The next number is already in the press, and contains a re-proving of Aconite, by Dr. Gerstel. Several highly educated and intelligent English physicians are at present studying Homœopathy at the Hospital of the Sisters of Charity, and appeared greatly interested in watching the results of the treatment of acute disease, pursued by Dr. Fleischmann.

We have every reason to believe that the chair of Homœopathy, so long talked of, is very soon to be instituted.

The Editors of this Journal are encouraged by the almost daily reception of letters which express approbation of their labors; and, what is of some importance, most of the letters enclose from one to five dollars from subscribers. The former is a source of gratification to the Editors; and the latter is perfectly satisfactory to the Printer.

We feel no hesitation in asking every physician of our school, to send us, at their earliest convenience, five or more subscribers from among the laity of their acquaintance, which they can do, and even more.

We perform a duty by expressing our thanks to Dr. McManus, of Baltimore, Drs. Piper and Green, of Washington, D. C., Mr. C. W. Brink, of Burlington, N. J., and Dr. W. E. Payne of Bath, Me., who have given *substantial* evidence that they will stand to their duty, in promulgating the truth in the healing art, as advocated by the American Journal of Homœopathy.

Drs. Barlow, Haynel, Bolles, and Bowers, have consented on invitation from the N. Y. Bureau, to co-operate with it in the trial of drugs.

HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY.

Smith's Homœopathic Pharmacy, 592 Broadway, adjoining Niblo's Theatre. John T. S. Smith has a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; Arnica flowers; Sugar of Milk, Pure Alcohol, Distilled Water, Pellets, &c., &c. Physician's, Pocket and Family Cases of Medicine on hand, and prepared to order Homœopathic Plasters, a substitute for ordinary Court and Adhesive Plaster, and an excellent application for Corns.

HOMŒOPATHIC DISPENSARY, BROADWAY, corner of Lispenard street, (entrance No. 74 Lispenard street.) Open daily, [Sunday excepted,] from 3 to 4.

Physicians in attendance, Mondays and Thursdays, Drs. Kirby and Barlow; Tuesdays and Fridays, Drs. Cook and Snow; Wednesdays and Saturdays, Drs. Quin and Bowers.

GENERAL AGENCY of the Central Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic for the United States, No. 322 Broadway. Wm. Radde respectfully informs Hom. Physicians and the friends of the System, that he is the sole Agent for the Leipsic Central Homœopathic Pharmacy, and that he has always on hand a good assortment of the best Homœopathic Tinctures and Medicines in their different Triturations and Dilutions: also Physician's, Pocket and Family Medicine Cases, containing from 27 to 300 vials. Pure Spirits of Wine. Fine Vials, different sizes, and made of white glass. Corks. Diet Papers. Labels. Homœopathic Chocolate Arnica Plaster, an excellent application for Corns. Also an assortment of Hom. Books, in English, German, and French; as Jahr's Manual of Hom. Practice, in 2 vols., By A. Gerard Hull, M. D. Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases, in 5 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, M. D. Hahnemann's Materia Medica, 2 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, &c.

C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North 4th street, between Arch and Cherry streets, Philadelphia, Agent for the Leipsic Homœopathic Medicines, respectfully informs the Homœopathic Physicians and the friends of the Homœopathic system, that he has always on hand a good assortment of Homœopathic Medicines in their different preparations, viz: Tinctures, Triturations, Dilutions, and medicated Pellets.

Medicine Chests of different sizes for Physicians, with Tinctures and Triturations, Dilutions, or medicated Pellets. Also constantly on hand, Family Medicine Chests to suit, Hering's Domestic Physician; Laurie's Homœopathic Domestic Medicine; Epps' Domestic Homœopathy; Newman's Homœopathic Family Assistant; and the Family Guide. Also Refined Sugar of Milk, Alcohol, Vials of different sizes. Corks, Labels, etc. etc.

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